

checks on anybody who wants to purchase a weapon.

Those two simple pieces of legislation we have asked to be brought to this floor. In fact, a couple weeks ago, we were so upset that we actually did a filibuster and broke some rules of this House to try to make our voices heard to have a vote. The Republican majority has refused to let us have that vote.

Let us have a hearing. These are bipartisan pieces of legislation sponsored by Mr. KING. Mr. CURBELO, just a second ago, asked that something be brought up, but it is not going to be brought up.

It is time. It is time that we have a vote. It is time that we have a hearing. It is time that we do something about gun violence.

Today I just brought the picture of Garrett Swasey, the police officer who was killed in the mass shooting at the Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs, and a picture to remember, Alex Teves, who was killed in the Aurora movie theater protecting his girlfriend from being shot by a madman who thought he was The Joker.

It is time, Mr. Speaker. It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we address these things. We can't avoid it any longer. These subjects are not going away. We are not going away. These people cannot have died in vain.

Whether it is the 5 police officers shot last week, the 49 people killed at the nightclub, the hundreds who have been killed by guns over the course of the last few years, it is time for a hearing, and it is time for a vote.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this people's House with wisdom and the courage to address the pressing difficulties of our time. You know each one personally, through and through, and how they relate with one another. You know them, as Your people know them, as the 114th Congress.

Help them to know You. Impel them by Your spirit to act justly and walk humbly with You.

Inspire all of our citizens, as well, to look first to their blessings and then

charitably to the work of this people's House. Each Member chooses to serve another day. May each serve with honor, and merit the appreciation of those whom they serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FORBES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RESTORING THE CONSTITUTION

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a stand against bureaucracy run amok. Every day I hear from hardworking Hoosiers, small-business owners, and family farmers buried under red tape. They feel like their government is actively working against them. From ObamaCare, to the EPA, to many other agencies, the Obama administration has been churning out complex and costly regulations. This has to stop.

We can't have small business, farmers, and other engines of our economy held back by the threat of a regulator knocking on their door. That is why we have a plan to restore the Constitution. House Republicans recently released our plan for A Better Way to make our government more accountable and transparent and give power back to the people.

Today we are also taking an important step toward reining in regulators and rebuilding the checks and balances our Founding Fathers intended with the Separation of Powers Restoration Act. Mr. Speaker, with this bill, and our A Better Way agenda, the House is standing up for the people against out-of-control bureaucracy.

REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the poor condition of America's infrastructure costs our economy hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Freight bottlenecks, aviation congestion, inadequate ports, and deteriorating roads will cost 2.5 million American jobs over the next 10 years unless we address it.

Meanwhile, interest rates are at a historic low. The yield on a 10-year Treasury bond is 1.4 percent. Indexed for inflation, the interest rate is negative.

Observing this, Nobel Prize economist Paul Krugman wrote: "They say that money talks; well, cheap money is speaking very clearly right now, and it's telling us to invest in our future," to nation-build in America.

Increasing spending by \$250 billion a year, the amount needed to bring our infrastructure to a state of good repair, would create 3 million jobs and would improve America's competitiveness in the long term.

We should use today's record low rates to finance this inevitable spending. Refusing to do so makes no economic sense. I encourage this Congress to reconsider before this opportunity is lost.

TRAGEDY AT THE BERRIEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

(Mr. UPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, southwest Michigan has had some tough times lately, and now we are faced with the news that broke yesterday that two bailiffs at Berrien County Courthouse in my hometown of St. Joseph, Michigan, were slain by an inmate who had overpowered his guard.

So I rise today to offer support and love for the victims' friends, family and certainly our entire community. We should continue to keep those affected in our hearts and in our minds. I also want to thank the countless folks on the front lines who clearly prevented the tragedy from even being worse.

The swift actions of those on the ground need to be commended, particularly the Berrien County Sheriff's Department led by Sheriff Paul Bailey. I was with him just this past Saturday, and what he had to endure the last 24 hours is unthinkable.

I also want to thank the immediate action and outpouring of support from our local officials: St. Joseph Mayor Mike Garey; Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad; and State-elected officials, including our Governor Rick Snyder and State legislators John Proos and Al Pscholka. It is times like these when we need to unite as one. This heartbreaking tragedy happened

in the blink of an eye, but we will never forget.

We will remember and honor Joe Zangaro, who I knew personally, who was the head of courthouse security, a retired Michigan State Police officer. We will remember and honor Ronald Kienzle, a U.S. Army veteran, retired Benton Township police officer.

I ask my colleagues and those who hear this message across the country to pray for the families of the two victims, the speedy recovery of another deputy, James Atterberry, Jr., and a civilian caught in the middle, Kenya Ellis. We will get through this together.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it has been a challenging and heartbreaking time for our country. Today, we mark the 1-month anniversary of the horrible mass shooting in Orlando.

As we process the pain from the gun violence that continues to shake our Nation, we must come together and find solutions. We all share a desire to feel safe. We all want our children to grow up free from fear. The violence that has gripped our communities has taken many forms, and stems from many causes.

There is no question that we have work to do, and that solutions will not be simple. But we can and should be taking action in Congress to make our citizens safer. We can't solve every problem overnight, but we can take steps now to do some commonsense things Americans agree on, like expanding background checks and passing the bipartisan no fly, no buy bill.

Mr. Speaker, let us work together to find a path forward in our shared commitment to peace in our Nation.

MEDICAL DEVICE GUARDIANS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Medical Device Guardians Act. The Guardians Act updates current laws regarding the reporting of unsafe medical devices by requiring that physicians and their offices be added to the list of entities that must report unsafe medical devices to the device manufacturer and to the FDA.

The tragic stories of women harmed by one particular device known as a laparoscopic power morcellator highlight the need for the Guardians Act. Despite cancer being spread for years by the blades of this device, no one ever reported this deadly safety defect to the FDA. That is until Amy Reed, a mother of six and a doctor underwent morcellation and had cancer spread throughout her body.

It should not have fallen on patients to get the FDA's attention. This bill simply codifies an existing mandate of the American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics, which recognizes that physicians are in the best position to identify and report unsafe devices. Today, reporting unsafe devices to the FDA is as easy as downloading an app on a smartphone.

This is a reasonable fix that will save lives. I urge my colleagues to support it.

OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

(Mr. THOMPSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, more than 80 percent of NRA members and over 80 percent of gun owners support background checks. It is because they are responsible gun owners. Responsible gun owners understand that there is nothing wrong with making sure that a prospective gun buyer isn't a terrorist, a criminal, a domestic abuser, or dangerously mentally ill.

Our first line of defense when it comes to making sure that guns don't fall into dangerous hands is to conduct a background check. But sadly, a gaping loophole allows those same felons, domestic abusers, and fugitives to bypass a background check in 34 States by going online or to a gun show.

That is why it is long past time for the Republican leadership to allow a vote on H.R. 1217, bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment legislation to require background checks for all commercial gun sales. This debate isn't a choice between respecting the Second Amendment or reducing gun violence.

As a responsible gun owner, I am tired of it being framed that way. It is about this Congress doing both. Mr. Speaker, give us a vote.

CUBAN AIRPORT SECURITY

(Mr. HUDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5728, the bipartisan Cuban Airport Security Act of 2016.

Over the past several months, the Obama administration and the Cuban Government have stonewalled oversight of airport security arrangements. This lack of transparency is troubling and begs the question: What are they hiding?

As far as we know, Cuban airports don't have proper screening for explosive detection; they can't check for fake IDs and fake passports; they don't allow TSA on the ground to evaluate security; and they don't have air marshals on planes. The administration plans to start flights into Charlotte from Cuba in a few months, but they

are not doing enough to guarantee there won't be a security threat on one of those planes.

After all, Cuba has been a safe haven for terrorists and was just recently removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. It is a brutal regime that recently hosted the North Korean equivalent of our CIA Director. We should not allow the proposed 110 flights a day of commercial air flights—indeed, we shouldn't allow a single flight until we are absolutely sure they have the proper security at airports to protect the American people.

This legislation puts the brakes on the President's dangerous plans. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE ACTION

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today marks 1 month since the worst mass shooting in our Nation's history. This week, we learned that the House majority will not bring a bill to the floor until after the 7-week recess that starts this week.

The majority claims that it needs to show calm, that it needs to show leadership. Well, the majority has already failed to show leadership. That is why we are not calm.

It has been 30 days since Pulse, 223 days since San Bernardino, 226 days since Colorado Springs, 285 days since Roseburg, 362 days since Chattanooga, 390 days since Charleston, 781 days since Isla Vista, 832 days since Fort Hood, 1,030 days since Navy Yard, 1,131 days since Santa Monica, 1,306 days since Newtown, 1,383 days since Minneapolis, 1,437 days since Oak Creek, 1,453 days since Aurora, 1,562 days since Oakland, 1,735 days since Seal Beach, and 2,012 days since Tucson.

This is not leadership. This is cold. This is heartless. This is cowardice. It is time to take action to make our communities safer.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL MOTTO

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on July 30 we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our national motto, In God We Trust, which is displayed directly above your chair.

Throughout our history as a nation, we have often struggled to find the right words in time of crisis or great challenge.

In the War of 1812, we found those words in our national anthem when Francis Scott Key wrote: "And this be our motto: In God is our trust."

In 1864, Congress found them when it authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to add the inscription "In God We Trust" on coins.